



Interim Report

FY 2007

For The Period January 1 - June 30, 2007

Interim Report 2007

This report covers only a six month period of time beginning January 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2007. The Tennessee Forestry Commission historically reported its annual report on a calendar year basis, but beginning with this report the Commission will transition to a fiscal year reporting period to coincide with the State's fiscal year. This six month report will be followed by a full twelve month report covering all activities which began July 1, 2007 and which will end June 30, 2008.



Members

Bill Williams, Chair

Newport, TN
Represents hardwood manufacturers

John Ross, Vice-Chair

Savannah, TN
Represents owners of greater than 500 acres

Paul Trianosky, Secretary

Mountain City, TN
Represents owners of less than 500 acres

Jack Holder

Counce, TN
Represents pulp and paper manufacturers

Ronnie James

Hohenwald, TN
Represents owners of less than 500 acres

Dottie Mann

Clarksville, TN
Represents conservation organizations

James W. Reeves

Stanton, TN
Represents Public at Large

Ken Givens, Ex-Officio

Commissioner - Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Gary T. Myers, Ex-Officio

Director - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Jim Fyke, Ex-Officio

Commissioner - Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Forestry Commission Duties and Functions

The Tennessee Forestry Commission was established by the legislature under T.C.A. 11-4-201 to:

1. Nominate candidates for State Forester.
2. Review, approve and submit the annual budget of the Forestry Division to the Commissioner of Agriculture.
3. Make an annual report to the Governor, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee and the House Conservation and Environment Committee.
4. Recommend to the General Assembly legislation to protect, conserve and develop the forest resources of the state.
5. Approve the Division's comprehensive long-range plan for the state's forest resources.
6. Establish state forestry policies that will enable the Division to manage its programs.
7. Include in budget recommendations those goals and objectives necessary to implement state forestry policies.

Highlights for the Six-month period of January through June 2007

The Tennessee Forestry Commission met twice during the six month period of January 1 through June 30, 2007 to hear reports from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry regarding ongoing projects, partnerships, and budget needs. The following list highlights issues presented at those meetings.

- The Commission presented a budget improvement request to the Department of Agriculture for radio communications equipment for \$3.8 million one-time-money and \$182,000 recurring for positions. The request was approved in the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee. The radio equipment will be narrow-band technology and will eventually be used state-wide by all agencies.
- The USDA Forest Service reviewed the Division's Forest Health Program and commended the program on several points including: quality of forest health & field personnel, progress on the Rapid Forest Health Assessment project, approach to the hemlock woolly adelgid project, integrated pest management training for the Division's area foresters, the Division's non-native species initiatives, and the Division's approach to the gypsy moth cooperative.
- The State Forest System met all 30 Forest Stewardship Council's certification requirements.
- Draft policy identifying the process and requirements to be placed on the Division's Consulting Forester's List was introduced for the Commission to review and make final comments prior to formalization.
- The Commission sub-committee to examine the implementation of forester credentialing in the state of Tennessee is awaiting the final proposal from the Kentucky-Tennessee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters
- The Commission approved a proposal for 2007-2008 production of seedlings and price.
- A late spring freeze followed by drought conditions resulted in an active spring fire season that left the public wanting to know more about Tennessee's Firewise program. Also brought to attention was that prescribed fires could bring more smoke management concerns in the future.

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION UNIT

The mission of the Forest Resource Protection Unit is to reduce losses from wildfires and forest pests, and to prevent water quality degradation from forestry sources. The Forest Resource Protection Unit administers the Division's Wildland Fire Protection, Forest Health, and Water Quality programs.

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - Wildland Fire Protection

Mission: Minimize damage caused by wildfire to forest resources and personal property while giving priority to firefighter safety.

The Division protects forest resources from destructive fire so that the intrinsic benefits of the state's forests can be realized. It does this by preventing and suppressing wildfires, promoting hazard reduction activities, and supporting wildland fire training for volunteer fire departments and other wildland firefighters. The highest priority of this program is firefighter and public safety.

Objectives

- Integrate Fire Prevention messages across all programs
- Design/Implement automated fire reporting system
- Initiate Remote Automated Weather System (RAWS) and National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS)
- Improve District fire plan process
- Advance Firewise community projects into additional communities
- Continue Incident Management Team (IMT) development

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Implemented an automated fire reporting system
- Deployed 50 out-of-state resource assignments; 35 in Georgia, 12 in Florida, and 3 were federal fire details
- Conducted Prescribed Burn Training for 24 Division of Forestry personnel
- Suppressed 2,250 forest fires that burned 33,125 acres
- Conducted 2 Firewise Teacher workshops across the state
- Conducted 2 Firewise Community Leader workshops across the state
- Completed 100% Federal Excess Personnel Property inventory and certified the results
- Issued 261,871 burn permits across the state
- Completed bid process for 39 new Type VI slip-on pumpers
- Completed District Fire Plans
- Developed a fire prevention website - www.BurnSafeTN.org
- Provided 101 fire assistance grants to volunteer fire departments totaling \$240,000.

WILDFIRE TRENDS IN TENNESSEE

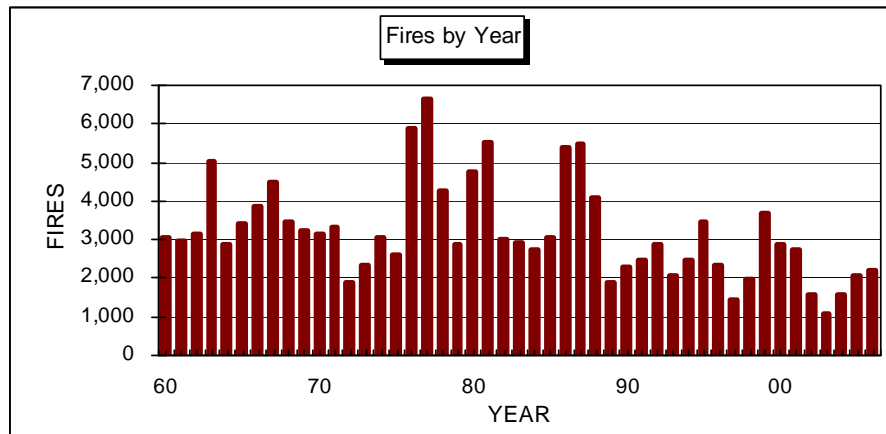


Figure 1. Chart of wildfires in Tennessee from 1960 to June of 2007

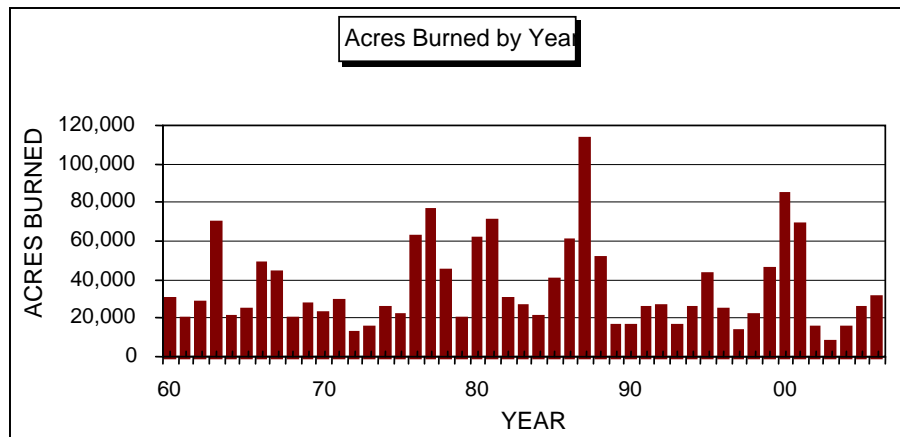


Figure 2. Chart of acres lost to wildfires in Tennessee from 1960 to June of 2007

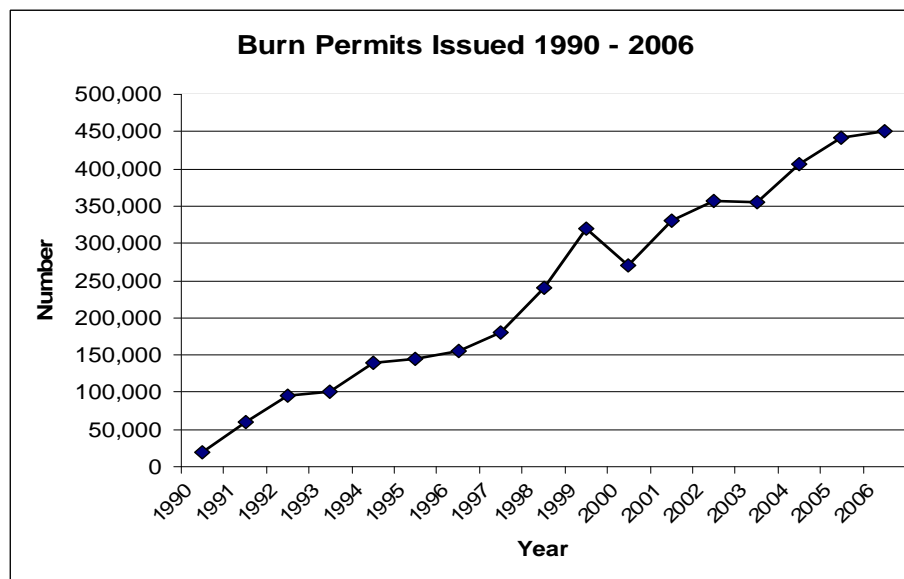


Figure 3. Burn Permits issued

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - Forest Health Protection

Mission: Minimize forest resource losses caused by forest pests through effective prevention, detection, evaluation, suppression, and technical assistance measures.

The Division is endeavoring to meet the constant challenges in the Forest Health arena. The difficulty of managing forest pests has been made more complicated by the ever-increasing number of native and non-native forest pests. Coordination with other agencies and interest groups is becoming a critical part of the Division's response.

Objectives

- Elevate the level of detection, monitoring and management of pests as needed
- Cooperate with Forest Management Unit to get relevant forest health information to landowners in a timely manner
- Implement gypsy moth and hemlock woolly adelgid plans
- Complete grant applications and contracts in a timely manner
- Develop eastern hemlock remote sensing baseline project

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Conducted three forest health trainings in integrated pest management for all six districts consisting of approximately 90 foresters and technicians
- Conducted southern pine beetle (SPB) trapping and predicted stable and low population levels for Marion, Rhea, and Wayne Counties and increasing SPB populations levels for Chester County
- Conducted several flights over Chickasaw and Natchez Trace State Forests in efforts to detect SPB and other pine bark beetle infestations for salvage, monitoring, and/or silvicultural treatments
- Provided funding in cooperation with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to provide additional personnel at the University of Tennessee's beneficial insects laboratory who increased production of biological control agents to reduce hemlock woolly adelgid populations on state lands
- Participated in a Cooperative Forest Health Program Review with the USDA Forest Service to highlight current accomplishments and future needs for this program in Tennessee
- Issued the 2007 Pest Alert to all field staff statewide indicating future trends in certain insect and disease problems for 2007

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - Water Quality

Mission: Protect waters of Tennessee from degradation attributable to forestry practices.

The Division of Forestry works to ensure that forestry practices are performed in a manner that does not result in the degradation of the State's water resources. The Water Quality program involves prevention, education, training, monitoring, response to complaints, and assistance to Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Water Pollution Control (WPC) with complaint resolution.

Objectives

- Conduct Best Management Plan (BMP) implementation survey
- Increase courtesy checks and logger contacts
- Provide Master Logger continuing education credits with emphasis on stream crossings
- Establish a portable bridge project

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Reprinted BMP manual
- Revised and printed BMP pocket guide
- Conducted the Division's BMP implementation survey
- Conducted 755 on-site visits with landowners and loggers, providing technical assistance concerning application of BMP (359 were courtesy checks)
- Prepared 501 written BMP recommendations for forest landowners in forest management plans and timber sale assistance
- Presented 1 BMP session for the Tennessee Master Logger program; trained 12 loggers
- Conducted 11 forestry water quality and BMP familiarization and training workshops for 261 resource managers, forest landowners, and loggers
- Investigated 10 complaints arising from forestry operations in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control
- Investigated and made recommendations on 67 complaints from other sources
- Assisted with 5 Notices of Violation and 1 Director's Order issued by TDEC WPC

Logging Complaint Summary

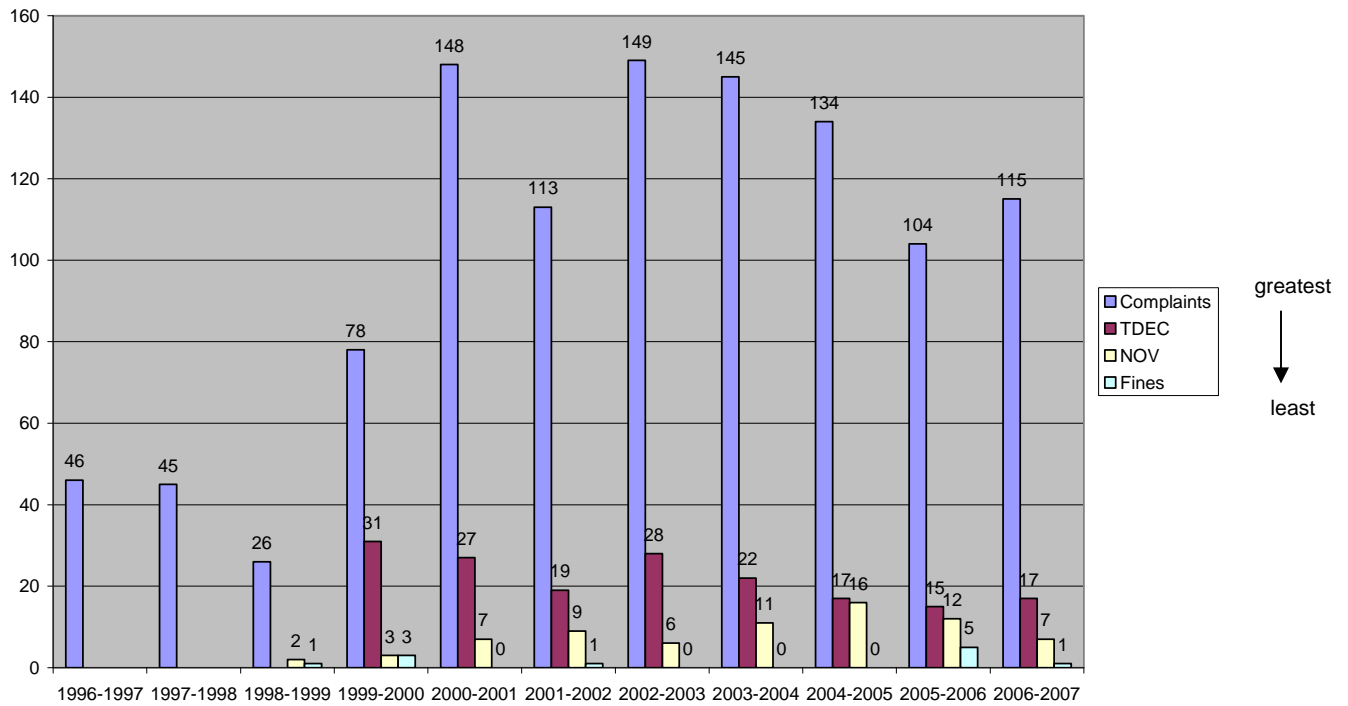


Figure 4. Logging Complaint History (TDEC = Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, NOV = Notices of Violation)

Fines and NOV's

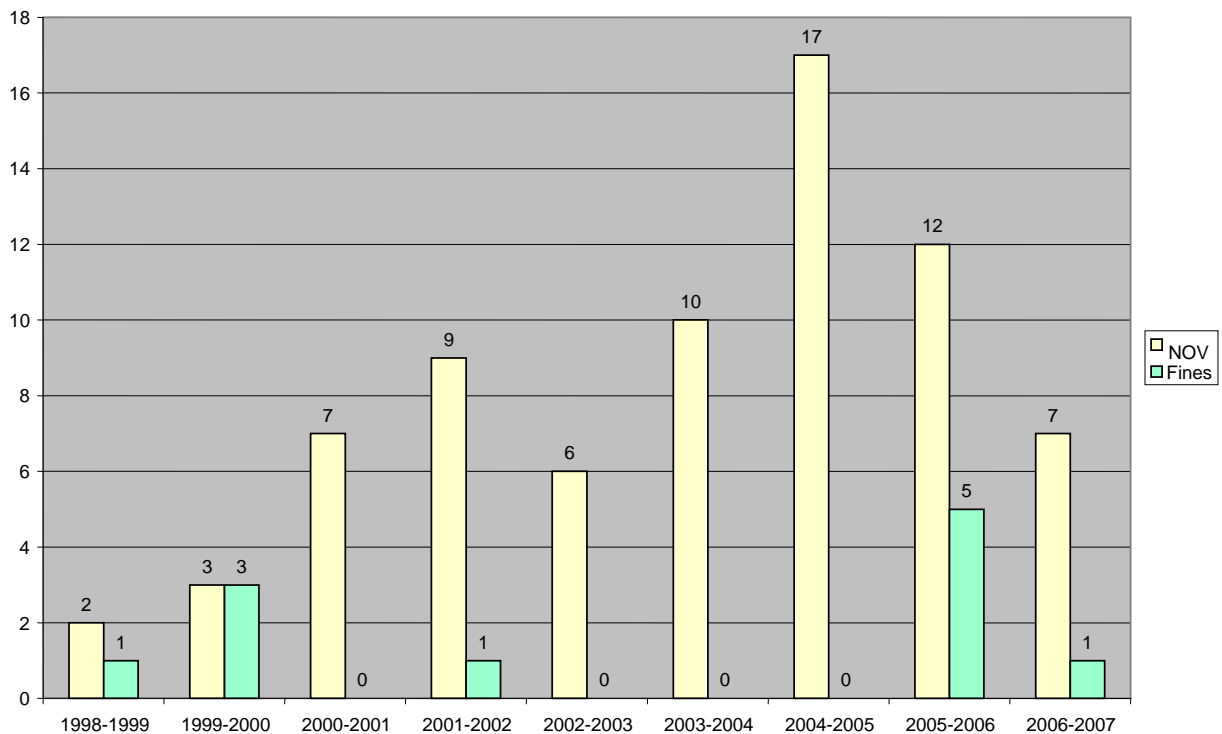


Figure 5. Subset of Figure 4 highlighting Notices of Violation (NOV) and Fines

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

The mission of the Forest Resource Management Unit is to promote and advance sustainable forest management on non-industrial private forestlands for the multiple uses and benefits provided by forested landscapes. The Forest Resource Management Unit administers the Division's Landowner Assistance and Forest Legacy programs.

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - Forest Landowner Assistance

Mission: Encourage and assist landowners to implement forest management practices that yield healthy, productive forests.

The landowner assistance program provides technical assistance, forest planning assistance, cost-share assistance, forest health assessments and forestry information to private, non-industrial forest landowners. The Division assists landowners in achieving forest resource conservation and forest management objectives on their land.

Objectives

- Complete Stewardship Plan-Writer software application
- Deliver, promote and standardize Rapid Forest Health Assessment (RaFHA)
- Facilitate USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP Forestry Committee project
- Conduct Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods Phase II in cooperation with University of Tennessee Extension Service
- Work with Urban and Community Forestry Unit to access planning infrastructure

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Wrote 90 Forest Stewardship plans covering 12,851 acres
- Recognized implementation of 17 Forest Stewardship plans covering 8,862 acres
- Wrote 447 other forest management plans covering 23,202 acres
- Wrote 179 prescription plans covering 5,352 acres
- Assisted 101 landowners in planting 2,061 acres of hardwoods
- Assisted 184 landowners in planting 6,266 acres of pines
- Provided 1,101 on the ground assists to landowners (650 were first time assists)
- Partnered with the NRCS State Technical Committee to secure EQIP funding for forest management practices on private lands
- Partnered with the University of Tennessee Extension Service through the Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods initiative to train 230 landowners, foresters, and timber harvesters on intermediate forest stand treatments
- Participated in U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Program Review evaluating Division forest management and landowner assistance programs

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - Forest Legacy

Mission: Protect environmentally important, private forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses.

The Forest Legacy Program identifies and protects environmentally important private forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Program emphasis is to maintain well-managed, working forests on the landscape. Since initial involvement in 2000, fee simple and permanent conservation easement purchases now total 38,699 acres valued at \$38.8 million. Tennessee utilized \$19.7 million of federal Legacy grant money in reaching that total.

Objectives

- Close active projects
- Revise Assessment of Needs (AON) document
- Finish baseline documentation on six conservation easements
- Promote/document Legacy program and projects
- Identify special tracts for acquisition to state forest system

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Participated in U.S. Forest Service Quality Assurance Inspection
- Participated in U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Program Review evaluating the Division's Forest Legacy Program

URBAN FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

The mission of the Urban Forest Resource Management Unit is to assist and encourage municipalities and private urban landowners to establish, improve, and maintain urban forest resources.

Urban forestry emphasizes the important role trees play in communities: from the many intangible benefits to the economic benefits of air pollution abatement, heat island mitigation, and storm water runoff reduction. To attain these benefits, the urban forestry program strives to provide assistance to Tennessee's cities and towns, where the majority of the population lives. Urban Forestry impacts people where they live.

Objectives

- Work with Forest Management Unit to access planning infrastructure in State
- Integrate Urban and Community Forestry into field forestry operations
- Establish standards for tree inventory/management plan
- Expand Urban and Community Forestry reporting within the Division
- Develop canopy cover assessment tools
- Develop model tree protection ordinance

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Completed a state-wide poster contest for fifth graders in conjunction with the National Arbor Day Foundation
- Completed the planning process for a highly successful State Arbor Day celebration that was held in Clarksville
- Developed a model tree protection ordinance for communities by supporting a grant to the Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS)
- Made 94 assists to 60 cities and towns; assists included providing information to tree boards, ordinance reviews, Tree City USA information, planting recommendations
- Re-certified 35 cities and towns as Tree City USA.
- Provided 42 assists to utilities, grounds managers, arborists, and related professionals
- Continued grants administration (information and application packet, Dept. Grant Authority, grant workshops, proposal review for urban forestry grants for 2007, final reports review and reimbursements for the remaining 2005 grants, and progress reports and ongoing monitoring for the 2006 grants)
- Continued assistance to urban forestry council
- Conducted 23 presentations to various groups regarding trees, urban forestry – 1,509 hours of instruction were received by individuals within these groups.
- Assessed status of communities in meeting the four program elements in accordance with the National Allocation Formula – USDA Forest Service
- Completed a canopy analysis of the Forest Inventory and Analysis plots containing urban plots; analysis was completed for panels 1 & 2

STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

The mission of the State Forest Management Unit is to provide for the multiple use management of all resources on State Forest lands such that those resources are protected and utilized in the combination that best meets the long-term needs of the people of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry manages 15 state forests totaling 166,332 acres based upon multiple-use and sustainable forest principals. The forests are quite varied, ranging from mountain coves to cedar glades to bottomlands along the Mississippi river.

Objectives

- Implement Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) of state forest system
- Complete 8 compartment plans
- Integrate state forest GIS data and connectivity to field
- Develop public outreach programs
- Satisfy third-year Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) conditions/Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) preparedness
- Maintain state forest infrastructure – roads, boundaries, etc.

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Completed data collection on 235 of 708 CFI plots (33%)
- Completed development of 9 compartment plans
- Facilitated 2 of the 3 Tennessee Health Hardwood Field Days on State Forests
- Met all 30 FSC conditions of a five-year forest certification contract
- Acquired 1,100 acres at Bledsoe from Bowaters, 44 acres at Cedars of Lebanon and TDEC transferred approximately 1,200 acres of the Pogue Creek acquisition to Pickett State Forest
- Completed Biological Assessment of Franklin State Forest (TDEC contract)
- Updated roads/trail GIS layers on 6 State Forests

REFORESTATION UNIT

The mission of the Reforestation Unit is to provide quality, affordable seedlings (genetically improved where feasible) to Tennessee landowners and to optimize genetic improvements to increase the productivity of the state's forest resource.

REFORESTATION - Seedling Nursery

Mission: To provide high quality conifer and hardwood seedlings to the state's landowners at a competitive price.

The Division of Forestry's seedling nursery, located in Delano, TN, produces forest seedlings that are available for sale to landowners in Tennessee. These seedlings are adapted to growing conditions found in Tennessee and are used primarily for reforestation and forest conservation projects. Approximately one-half of the 75 acres available for seedling production at the nursery are used for this purpose each year. The remaining seedbed area is planted in cover crops each year to ensure the long-term productivity of the nursery soil.

Objectives

- Acquire land for a new West Tennessee Seedling Distribution Center
- Repair the seedling cold storage building at the Pinson Reforestation Complex
- Improve usefulness and user-friendliness of the Nursery Management computer software
- Increase seedling sales and accompanying sales revenue
- Complete construction of the fertilizer enclosure at the East Tennessee Nursery

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Replaced roof and door frame and installed internal structural steel framework to support sagging ceiling in cold storage building at the Pinson Reforestation Complex; treated building for termites
- Created test version of new web-based seedling sales software program
- Increased seedling sales revenue by 5% over previous season
- Completed construction of concrete block fertilizer storage enclosure at the East Tennessee Nursery
- Searched for land for a new West Tennessee Seedling Distribution Center

REFORESTATION - Tree Improvement

Mission: To genetically improve the forest plantations of Tennessee through a program of breeding, testing, selection, and orchard management for important tree species; and to provide the state nursery with genetically improved seed from these orchards.

The Division manages over 220 acres of seed orchards and more than 214 acres of progeny tests at various locations around the state. Currently, the Division is actively working with 7 hardwood and 4 conifer tree species. Tennessee is also a member of the North Carolina State University – Industry Cooperative Tree Improvement Program. Membership allows accelerated breeding and establishment of genetically superior seed orchards. Seed produced from these orchards is used to grow seedlings tailored for survival and fast growth on Tennessee's landscape.

Objectives

- Acquire land for future West Tennessee Tree Improvement studies and orchards
- Continue with installation of 3rd-cycle loblolly pine orchard at the Pinson Reforestation Complex
- Install 2nd phase of loblolly pine progeny tests at the Pinson Reforestation Complex
- Graft all loblolly and white pine scion material needed for various orchards around the state. Top priority is on the grafts needed to continue the installation of the 3rd-cycle orchards at the Pinson Reforestation Complex
- Fertilize all orchards as needed, based on soil test results and recommendations from the North Carolina State University Tree Improvement Cooperative

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Planted all grafted seedlings produced for addition to the 3rd cycle loblolly orchard at the Pinson Reforestation Complex
- Laid out 2nd phase of loblolly pine progeny test at the Pinson Reforestation Complex and planted all scheduled seedlings
- Grafted all needed loblolly and white pine scion material available to rootstock seedlings
- Fertilized all orchards as needed based on soil test results and recommendations from the North Carolina State University Tree Improvement Cooperative

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The mission of the Forest Data and Technology Unit is to facilitate the development and utilization of technology to meet the needs of the Division's core businesses. The Forest Data and Technology Unit has the responsibility to implement state of the art technology, manage and compile data, and administer the Division's Forest Inventory and Analysis, and Geographic Information Systems programs.

The Forest Data and Technology Unit is charged with the task of seeking out and implementing relevant technology. The Unit is also responsible for maintaining relevant databases and presenting data in a format for further analysis. Critical work areas include updating information systems and getting new mapping and remote sensing technology into the hands of field personnel. Adopting such technology will lead to better communications, increased efficiency, and strengthened credibility.

Objectives

- Develop Fire report database
- Develop Water Quality database
- Develop Nursery database
- Analyze color-IR aerial photos for hemlock stands
- Determine GIS mapping needs for Area Foresters
- Find or develop GIS mapping program that works with NAD83 and UTM projection

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Completed fire reporting database and activated online for data collection
 - Resolved problems with records being over-written
 - Worked with IT department to re-design for multiple users
 - Collected 2354 records from January 1 to June 30
- Completed water quality database and activated online for data collection
 - Began re-design to collect new information
- Completed nursery database
 - Initiated testing phase for bugs and glitches
- Initiated testing phase of color-IR aerial photo analysis for identifying hemlock stands
- Re-designed fGIS file structure for utilizing county data and aerial photos for Stewardship mapping
- Continued to research other GIS programs to utilize different projections

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY - Forest Inventory Analysis

Mission: Collect data to characterize changes in Tennessee's forest resource.

The Division works with the USDA Forest Service to produce periodic reports of the condition and extent of Tennessee's forest. Some 4,600 plots statewide are accurately measured at regular intervals to provide the data needed, with 20% of the plots scheduled for measurement each year. Information from this data is used to qualify and quantify Tennessee's forest resource.

Objectives

- Measure 925 plots
- Train and certify crew members

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Measured 742 Forest Inventory plots
- Measured 26 Forest Health Monitoring plots
- Measured 22 Urban Forest Health Monitoring plots
- Trained 2 Foresters for Certification
- Trained 4 Foresters for Forest Health Monitoring data collection
- Trained 4 Foresters for Ozone data collection

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY – Geographic Information Systems

Mission: Analyze and present tabular information in visual (map) form or extract data from imagery and present it in tabular form that assists in making resource decisions.

The Geographic Information Systems section supports program managers decision making by analyzing data and presenting it in map or tabular form

Objectives

- Support Forest Health Gypsy Moth project
- Support Forest Health Hemlock Woolly Adelgid project
- Support Forest Health Sudden Oak Death project
- Support Forest Legacy project
- Support Water Quality project

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Gypsy Moth
 - Produced trapping grid maps for Campbell and Claiborne Counties
 - Managed property inventory of GPS units issued annually to seasonal employees and laptop computers issued annually to lead trappers used in gypsy moth trapping
 - Lead computer software refresher training and GPS operation for seven lead gypsy moth trappers
 - Lead refresher training of 20 full-time employees in the use of GPS in data collection for gypsy moth trap placement
 - Provided support to lead trappers for assigned GPS units, laptop computers and associated software
 - Received and processed more than 200 GPS data downloads from full-time employees and seasonal employees
 - Collected, imported, converted, inspected, modified, corrected, organized and archived more than 5,000 trap data records from field employees in order to produce require/requested maps
 - Produced large scale (statewide) gypsy moth trap placement maps
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
 - Produced pest occurrence maps from field survey data
 - Purchased new Image Analysis for ArcGIS software
 - Attended training class in Image Analysis for ArcGIS software
 - Began pilot project using newly secured statewide color-IR aerial imagery and new Image Analysis for ArcGIS software to identify hemlock stands in Campbell County
- Sudden Oak Death
 - Produced pest occurrence maps from field survey data
- Forest Legacy
 - Produced map of closed Forest Legacy projects
- Water Quality
 - Produced quarterly maps of water quality courtesy visits

FOREST BUSINESS UNIT

The mission of the Forest Business Unit is to provide support for the Tennessee forest industry and forest-based businesses, and to provide data to characterize Tennessee forest products.

The goal of the Forest Businesses Unit is to improve Tennessee's forest resources by facilitating linkages between sellers and buyers and promoting value-adding industry. The Division's Forest Businesses program provides descriptive data about, and for, the forest products industry in Tennessee; technical assistance to forest products businesses or forest landowners; assistance in recruiting or establishment of forest products businesses in the state and analysis to aid understanding of the forest resource.

Objectives

- Publish the Forest Products Bulletin
- Provide export marketing assistance for hardwood lumber producers
- Assist Tennessee companies and citizens with forest products advice
- Participate in the Tennessee biofuels strategy

Accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Sponsored a Tennessee booth at the WoodMac Shanghai Show in China and promoted TN hardwood lumber with three new forest products companies attending
- Represented the Hardwood States Export Group at the very well attended Guangzhou Show the week following the Shanghai show
- Conducted Woodmizer sawmill maintenance training for indigenous groups as part of USFS Cooperative trip to Ecuador
- Published the Forest Products Bulletin Quarterly
- Advised Tennessee citizens with their forest products questions and needs for help with timber sales, logging, forest inventory and other inquiries
- Supplied biofuel data availability and inventory information for prospective companies

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC OUTREACH UNIT

The mission of the Environmental Affairs & Public Outreach Unit is to communicate clearly and accurately to the Division's publics forestry information necessary to accomplish the Division's mission, and to optimize in-house communications. The Environmental Affairs & Public Outreach Unit also administers the Division's Information and Education program.

The Environmental Affairs and Public Outreach Unit seeks creative ways to provide outreach to the various publics in the State of Tennessee. One group that has received emphasis of late is the limited resource/underserved and minority landowner. This is being addressed through a partnership with the cooperative extension segment of the state's 1890 land grant institution, Tennessee State University, and U. S. Forest Service funding. Additionally, the unit seeks to foster greater collaboration with environmental advocacy groups to produce a climate for problem solving which will help to reduce unnecessary conflict in various arenas with favorable outcomes for all.

Objectives

- Plan Estate Planning Workshops for Limited Resource – Underserved Landowners in West Tennessee
- Develop a public education program for demonstrating Carbon Sequestration in Robertson County
- Facilitate a grant to University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries to research Private Forest Management and Conservation on the North Cumberland Plateau
- Develop Visual Quality Demonstration Project
- Participate in the development of a regional Habitat Conservation Plan

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Initiated Visual Quality Demonstration project
- Worked with Southwest Tennessee Landowner Interest Group to host two 'Will and Estate Planning' workshops
- Facilitated the development of Bylaws, the election of Officers, and the application for non-profit status with the Southwest Tennessee Landowner Interest Group
- Continued the development of a public education program for demonstrating Carbon Sequestration with the Robertson County Soil Conservation Service, USDA-NRCS, and Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Service

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC OUTREACH - Information and Education

Mission: To produce educational materials and provide forest resource information through a variety of media, and provide support to all Division programs in the dissemination of information to our publics.

The information and education program is essential in helping the general public understand forestry as a discipline and the role that the division plays in maintaining a healthy forest resource while providing a stream of essential ecological benefits to society. The program also helps to foster communication within the division, a critical function of a healthy organization.

Objectives

- Produce internal newsletters
- Produce news releases pertaining to timely Unit objectives
- Organize and facilitate Forestry Camp
- Develop and launch fire prevention website

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Produced two quarterly newsletters for Division personnel
- Facilitated 58th annual Forest Camp for 47 Future Farmers of America high school students
- Developed fire prevention website – BurnSafeTN.org – and launched in May
- Gave radio and television interviews regarding wildfire threat/activity and drought
- Referenced in 326 newspaper articles

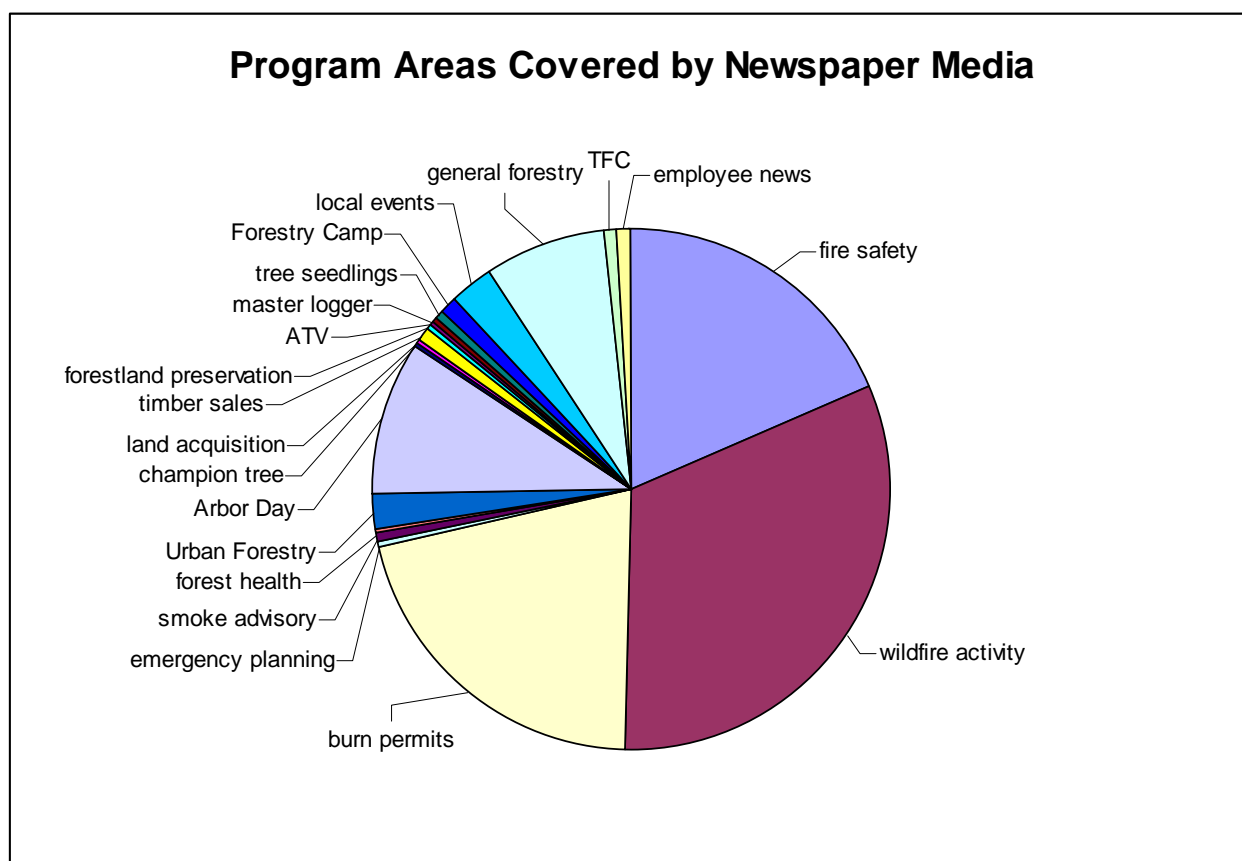


Figure 6. Program Areas Covered by Newspaper Media

Safety and Training Unit

The mission of the Safety and Training Program is to maximize Division employee effectiveness by coordinating logistics and tracking of safety and training programs.

The Division stresses *safety first* in all program areas, providing the tools and techniques to help employees to work both effectively and safely. Employees are provided continuing education and training opportunities to provide them with the skills and knowledge to help them do their jobs better. In addition, physical fitness standards help the Division maintain a physically capable firefighting work force.

Objectives

- Conduct work capacity test
- Coordinate ongoing training program
- Maintain training database
- Develop training guides for foresters and forest resource coordinators
- Investigate accidents/unsafe work practices

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Administered the work capacity test to assess fitness among Division firefighters
- Participated in the fifth annual Tennessee Kentucky Wildland Fire Academy, which offers advanced training for Division firefighters
- Trained firefighters in the use of fire operations in the wildland-urban interface
- Assisted with Insect and Disease Training for employees
- Conducted citation (badge) training for employees
- Facilitated training in fire prevention and land use planning at the Division's Annual Meeting for foresters and technicians
- Developed a Knowledge Assessment Test for foresters and forest technicians to assess training needs
- Revised and printed the Division's Safety/Health Manual
- Administered the Division's Title VI Program

ADMINISTRATION

The mission of the Administration personnel is to assist the State Forester in improving management effectiveness, the quality of customer services, the efficiency of operations, and the cost effectiveness of Division programs.

Spread across the State and administered from six district and one reforestation offices, the 333 employees of Agriculture's Forestry Division have responsibilities in nine separate programs. Effective planning, priority setting, and communication within the Division are crucial to organizational effectiveness. Assistant State Foresters and the Budget & Planning Unit Leader work with Staff to refine systems that improve customer services and operational efficiencies.

Objectives

- Coordinate annual work plan process
- Coordinate spend plan development
- Track performance measures
- Identify most important management process needing improvement
- Assist in Edison implementation
- Update labor distribution home bases

Major accomplishments for January 1 – June 30, 2007

- Updated vendor rates
- Instituted time accountability process
- Invoiced states for out-of-state mutual aid fire assistance quickly

The State of Tennessee policy of non-discrimination

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's policy of non-discrimination, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military service in its policies or in the admission or access to treatment or employment in its programs, services, or activities.

If you seek more information or feel that you have been treated unfairly in regard to the State's services or hiring practices, contact the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, EEO/AA/ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 40627 Melrose Station, Nashville, TN 37204, 615-837-5115.

Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Authorization No. 325324, 350 copies, January 2008. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$1.38 per copy.

